



ON THE BEAT

*Minneapolis VA Health
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May/June 2013

Minneapolis VA Health Care System Director Named



Patrick J. Kelly

Patrick J. Kelly, Captain, US Navy (retired), has been named Director of the Minneapolis VA Health Care System (VAHCS). He is expected to begin in mid-June. Since July 2011, Kelly has served as director of the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System.

The Minneapolis VAHCS Acting Director, Judith Johnson-Mekota, has returned to her duties as VISN23 Deputy Director.

The announcement was made May 10 in a news release by the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN 23).

“We are excited to bring Mr. Kelly on board as the new director of the Minneapolis VA Health Care System,” said Ms. Janet Murphy, VISN 23 Director.

“His sound leadership qualities and proven experience will be valuable assets for the health care system, the employees, volunteers, and most importantly, for the Veterans we are honored to serve,” Ms. Murphy added. “Patrick Kelly has an exceptional background and possesses the leadership, knowledge, and skills necessary to successfully lead the Minneapolis VA Health Care System into the future.”

Kelly received his BA degree in 1979 from Creighton University, Omaha, NE. He received a Master of Public Health Degree in 1982 from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. He was commissioned a Lieutenant (junior grade) in 1983.

Following graduation from Officer Indoctrination School, he was assigned as the Medical Administrative Officer, Branch Medical Clinic, NAS Miramar, San Diego, CA. In August 1985 he transferred to Naval Dental Center, Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines as Fiscal and Supply Officer. He was ordered to Naval Hospital Oak Harbor, WA in 1987 and served as the Fiscal and Supply Officer until April 1990 when he transferred to the 3d Medical Battalion, Okinawa, Japan where he served as the Battalion Executive Officer. In 1993 he matriculated at the Naval War College, Newport, RI, receiving a Masters in Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. He then served with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), Washington, DC as a Senior Policy Analyst. He subsequently was Director for Administration, Naval Hospital, Pensacola, FL, June 1997 – May 2000.

He served one year as the Senior Health Care Administration Assignment Officer, Bureau of Navy Personnel, Millington, TN before reporting to Bremerton, WA where he served as Executive Officer of the Naval Hospital and Commanding Officer of the Fleet Hospital. He was Commanding Officer of Fleet Hospital Eight, deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Rota, Spain from February – July 2003 and Naval Health Care New England from July 2004 – August 2005. He was then ordered to the Navy’s Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Washington, DC as the Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations from September 2005 – July 2007. He was the Chief of Staff, Navy Medicine West from July 2007 – June 2011, when he retired from the Navy.

ON THE COVER – Wood carving titled “Summer” by Kenneth Holst, who is a finalist for the VA’s National Creative Arts Festival in October. See other finalists and their art on Page 5.



Dr. Niewoehner (l) and Dr. Huang

Dr. Niewoehner Receives Top VA Research Award

In recognition of many years of clinical research on COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), the VA presented Minneapolis VA physician Dennis Niewoehner, MD, with the Barnwell Award during the Research Day program at the medical center on May 17. Dr. Grant Huang, VA's Deputy Director of the Coop Studies Program, and a colleague of Dr. Niewoehner, presented the award.

COPD is the third leading cause of death in the country. It accounts for nearly 750,000 hospitalizations in the U.S. every year, including 17,000 throughout the nation's VA health care system.

Niewoehner, a pulmonologist, has made COPD research the basis of much of his life's work for more than four decades. He led the group that published what is considered a landmark study on COPD, which appeared in 1999 in the prestigious *New England Journal of Medicine*. In it, Niewoehner and his colleagues indicated that systemic corticosteroids (and more specifically, drugs such as prednisone, which is well known for its anti-inflammatory properties) were indeed effective in treating hospitalized COPD patients.

Another major study published by Niewoehner in 1987, in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, led to a marked worldwide decrease in the use of theophylline for COPD, in part because adverse effects from the drug appeared to outweigh any benefits.

A good deal of Niewoehner's more recent research has focused on disease management. The aim is to help patients, many of whom also may have chronic conditions such as congestive heart failure and diabetes, assume more responsibility for their care through education, symptom monitoring and better home drug treatment.

In a more recent study of 750 COPD patients, he found that patient emergency room visits could be reduced by 50 percent through better education.

And while a cure for COPD remains unavailable, Niewoehner remains active in research aimed at reducing exacerbations as well as hospitalizations.

Information in this article from Minnesota Veterans Medical Research & Education Foundation (MN Vets) Website. For profile of Dr. Niewoehner, see <http://www.mnvets.org/index.php/our-research/va-research-profiles>

Milestones – Congratulations!

45 years Michael Richardson Primary Care	Robin Bearth Laboratory	Patrick Nadeau Imaging	Laurel Chelstrom Primary Care	John Simpson. VCS
40 Years Patrick Gastonguay Pharmacy	Robert Day Education	Brian Reinbold Specialty Care	Michelle Rohde Primary Care	Irene Winkler NFS
Timothy McKenna IT	Kory Bandertscher ECR	Hanni Lommel Primary Care	Judith Hinz Imaging	Deborah Mock Primary Care
30 Years Susan Ecklund Specialty Care	April Stefaniw HR	Connie Jaenicke Primary Care	Amanda Gallahue ECR	Anita Johnson Primary Care
Cynthia Tomczak Primary Care	20 Years Karen Wahmanholm Mental Health	Claudia Sherburne Research	Anna Hackman Pharmacy	Paula Wallerus. ECR
Annette Lawton Primary Care	Janice Cadieux Facilities	Sheila Johnson Pharmacy	Pamela Snyder, HR	Kimanh Doan Primary Care
Sharon Skoblik Office of Director	Anne Robinson Specialty Care	Coral Watanabe Primary Care	Adam Bock Primary Care	Seamus McGivern Materials
Douglas Baker Environmental Svc	Patricia Brown Prosthetics	Deborah Wright Primary Care	Nancy Harkness Primary Care	Philip Archambault ECR
Tim Porter, Police	Gail Koslowski Primary Care	Matthew Collier Laboratory	Nancy Harkness Primary Care	Sandra Sampair Business
Enid Zallar Primary Care	Julie Wagner Specialty Care	Nancy Lobitz Mental Health	Berkley Fogelsonger Primary Care	Charles Luedtke Police
25 Years Debra Poot Specialty Care	Diane Peterson Mental Health	Victoria Amour Business Office	Patrick Pischke Mental Health	Edward Gibson Primary Care
Norman Steinberg Primary Care	Lisa Sundberg Primary Care	Cathleen Retka Primary Care	Berkley Fogelsonger Primary Care	Todd Naidl Pharmacy
Lori Wita Specialty Care	Lisa Ganske Primary Care	10 Years Danyell Deckard Imaging	Doreen Hortillosa Specialty Care	Debra Jennings Primary Care
Paul Closner Engineering	Annette Hulbert Laboratory	Nicole Milender Primary Care	Rebecca LeClerc ECR	Julie Ruesink Director's Office
Bruce Hanson Primary Care	15 Years Kaarn Spencer Laboratory		James Forbess Primary Care	Michael Froats, ECR
	Carrie Horne Business Office		Eric Whitt Specialty Care	Cheryl Foster Primary Care
			Sarah Stransky Primary Care	Jessica McDonald Laboratory
				Jenna Lynn Marshall Mental Health

MINNEAPOLIS VA CREATIVE ARTS FINALISTS



String Art Kit: Cutty Shark by Jeff Gessner

Minneapolis VA has six visual art pieces that have advanced to the final phase of the National Creative Arts Competition. They were selected by a panel of national judges reviewing art entered from VA's across the country. The purpose of the national event is to recognize Veterans for their creative accomplishments and to educate and demonstrate to communities throughout the country the therapeutic benefits of the arts. The competition includes 53 categories in the Visual Arts Division that range from oil painting to leatherwork to paint-by-number kits. In addition, there are 120 categories in the Performing Arts pertaining to all aspects of music, dance, drama and creative writing. First, second, and third place winners in all categories will be announced by the national selection committee in late June. The 2013 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival will be held in Reno NV Oct 21-27.



Needlework
Kit: Busy Bees
by JoAnn Veres



Original
Needlework:
Purple Tulip
by JoAnn
Veres



Mosaic Kit:
Tender Loving
by Ray
Jacobsen



Assemblage: DAV
by Bill Lillibridge

MINNEAPOLIS VA CIVIL SERVANTS OF THE YEAR



Trina Avery

Trina has established herself nationally as a leading authority on travel operations. Her

efforts have been instrumental in the training and execution of the national rollout of a standardized claims processing platform that enhances accuracy and timeliness. Trina took the lead in VISN 23 implementing a cashless claims payment system that simplifies the payment process and reduces veteran wait times.



Kim Bielicki

Kim's superb leadership played a critical role in the implementation of the nationally mandated Non-

VA Care Coordination (NVCC) program. Over the course of one year, Kim brought the department from scheduling no appointments to scheduling up to 600 appointments per month. Her success was achieved through tirelessly integrating and training new staff. Her positive attitude has contributed to high employee morale during a time of rapid transitions and changes.



Nicholas Clubb

Nicholas has worked tirelessly to improve all aspects of the Medical Supply Distribution System. He is a

member of the Wound Care and Commodity Products Review Committees. His input on these committees is invaluable and has streamlined and standardized the wound care products used by medical staff. Nicholas ensures we are not duplicating products and that we have what the staff need in a timely manner.



April Eilers

April is seen at all VA special events. She has visited every CBOC! Her name

appears in small print beneath photos in local VA publications and national VA publications (Vanguard and Research Currents). Her work is known throughout the VA, resulting in her being assigned to national VA events such as the wheelchair games and winter sports. Her unique blend of professionalism and positivity puts her subjects at ease. April's energy is contagious. Her commitment to her work and Veterans is deep and profound.



Karen Coakley

Karen has been an exemplary and invaluable employee to the Minneapolis

VA in the Dental Clinic for the past 35 years. She is always willing to take on any task at any time in order to ensure that our Veterans do not have to go without their dentures and partial dentures. Most importantly, she does this all with cutting down waste and excessive use of materials in mind! Karen has been a mentor and leader to all of the VA's Dental Assistants and Resident Dentists. The Dental Clinic would be lost without her.



Nancy Feroe

Nancy has been a dedicated Medical Support Assistant (MSA) at the 2J

clinic for over 5 years. Working at the front desk of a busy clinic can be an overwhelming and exhausting position, but Nancy consistently cares for our veterans with the warmth, dignity and respect that they deserve. In addition to the care she provides our veterans, she also works intricately with the medical staff of doctors, nurses and pharmacists, helping to ensure that patients receive the best care possible.



Therese Hausladen

Therese has exhibited superlative leadership and sustained performance

of her duties while serving as the Sterile Processing Service (SPS) trainer and Quality Assurance Coordinator. Therese used her exceptional knowledge and vast experience to train SPS employees in sterile processing. She is a key team player for writing and input to the ISO-9001 Quality Manual and SPS protocols.



Peter Marshall

Dr. Marshall has been instrumental in implementing the VHA pain initiative at the local level by providing

extraordinary leadership, visionary purpose, and apt attention to micro and macro factors. His efforts strengthened collaboration among service lines and across disciplines. He provided pain education to providers and patients.

Jamal (Jud) Wingo (retired)

Jamal is hardworking, thorough, and aware of his co-workers. He is respectful to the patients and their families. Jud is conscientious and ensures patient safety and often goes beyond his call of duty. He will do things beyond his job responsibilities and help out wherever he is needed.



Susan Hickel

Susan has worked at the Minneapolis VA more than 30 years. Ms. Hickel provides

outstanding service to patients with kidney disease. She brings humor, fun and laughter into the daily interactions of her work environment, decreasing the stress and apprehension of patients with chronic illness. Ms. Hickel provides significant contributions to the lives of her patients, and colleagues; she is a role model in all her interactions.



Karen Rafter

Karen was instrumental in the development, implementation, and expansion of the VISN 23 Tele-ICU. She is

instrumental in elevating the professional practice of the RNs at the remote sites, assisting them in providing excellent care. Karen helps push the VA into the future and ensures all veterans receive excellent, safe care. She attends national calls, makes site visits, and assists the program implementation nationally.



Patricia A. Stitzel

Patricia goes above and beyond her duties. She took initiative to develop a fax filing system and the office has noticeably cut down on duplicate faxes and search requests. She instituted improvements in the waiting room – making it a nicer place for veterans. Patricia works well with staff and treats veterans with great respect



Stephanie Loegering

Stephanie is a very professional and dedicated teacher. She is always

looking out for the best interest of veterans and is available anytime she is called upon to assist in complex medication management of veterans in the CLC. Her contributions to the weekly CLC interdisciplinary care team meetings and discharge rounds are indispensable. Stephanie's dedication to the education mission of VA is top notch, an important part of the Pharmacy residency training program.



Kenneth Parsley

Ken served in the U.S. Marine Corps so he knows how to be assertive. However, as the VA privacy officer he prefers to use

other skills – diplomacy, respect and personal communications – to make sure the organization complies with federal policies regarding privacy. Ken prefers to educate staff on the importance of preserving our patients' privacy. He always does it in a professional, respectful manner.

FOCUS ON EDUCATION

Simulated Skin Supports Dermatology Procedure Training



Recently, dermatology and family medicine residents from the University of Minnesota participated in a three-hour dermatological procedural skills workshop at the Minneapolis VA Health Care System's (MVAHCS) simulation center. Using pigs' feet and simulated skin, 40 family medicine residents received training from 16 dermatology residents on shave and punch biopsy techniques, simple excisions and cryodestruction of different skin lesions. Dr. Neal Foman, residency program director and staff dermatologist at the MVAHCS, organized the training. "This is the first time commercial simulation skin has been used to

support the dermatology skills course," said Foman. "It was well received and led to a successful training experience. "Training is usually conducted using porcine 'pig' skin, and future courses will now offer the trainees opportunities to learn with different skin models." By David Adriansen, VISN 23 Simulation Program Coordinator. Reprinted from SIMLEARN newsletter. **PHOTO:** Dermatology resident Adam Byrd, MD, shows Family Medicine resident Kathryn Brown, MD, suturing techniques on a pig's foot. Simulated skin is shown to the right of the foot.



Parking Ramp Update

Work began April 1 on the new 520-space parking ramp. At left is a photo of the installation of a geopier that will become part of the foundation that will support the ramp. The auger machine will drill 500 holes into the ground and fill them with compacted aggregate to form the piers. The project is using geopiers because the vibration caused by pile driving normal piers could adversely affect sensitive scanning equipment in the hospital.



Assistant VA Secretary Makes Visit To Minneapolis

Dr. Tommy Sowers, Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, spent a half day at the Minneapolis VA on May 2. Following a briefing with leadership, he visited the Tele-ICU, prosthetics gait lab and 4J polytrauma unit. He also was interviewed by Minnesota Public Radio and the Military Hour. He was briefed at the VA Regional Office.

Dr. Sowers (l) with Robert Bonello, MD, medical director of Tele-ICU



Dr. Sowers (r) observes prosthetics demo with Gary Goldish, MD, director of ECR Service Line

Minneapolis VA Opioid Safety Initiative Draws Interest

The Minneapolis VA Opioid Safety Initiative was launched in February 2012 to address the issue of high risk opioid use for non-malignant pain. This interdisciplinary initiative was sponsored by the Chief of Staff and lead by Primary Care and Pharmacy with strong support from Mental Health. The specific interventions targeted high dose chronic opioid prescribing over 200 morphine equivalents per day and use of non-formulary OxyContin, with a goal of tapering patients to lower and safer doses, and converting from OxyContin to formulary alternatives.

As of May 2013, OxyContin utilization has been decreased by 94% and high dose opioid use has decreased by 55%. In addition, multiple pain management patient education and support resources have been developed by Mental Health, considerable progress has been made toward a facility standard of care for safer opioid prescribing, and an interdisciplinary pain management consultation service has been established.



The program's success was reviewed in the March 2013 cover story of *Minnesota Medicine*, the official publication of the Minnesota Medical Association. In the article, "The Opioid Crisis: Combating Misuse Through Better Prescribing," it was noted that VA primary care physicians and other providers had undergone training, attended presentations and received support materials demonstrating the harm of prescribing opioids that exceed 200 mg morphine equivalent per day (MEQ/d). The article quoted Erin Krebs, M.D., a VA internal medicine physician who studies pain as part of her research. She said, "These higher doses are most likely to be associated with unintentional overdoses." VA staff report many success stories "They (patients) tell us that as their dose is coming down, they are getting their life back," she says. "If you just keep upping the dose of pain medication in a patient, it can be hard to know if that patient is gaining anything at all."

In another development, VA Assistant Secretary Dr. Tommy Sowers wrote about the program in his column "**Vantage Point**" published May 29 following his visit to the medical center (See story on Page 9) where he received a briefing on the issue.

VISN23, Minneapolis VA Plan 'Hub-Spoke' Pain Management System of Care

In the fall of 2012 the Minneapolis VA and VISN 23 began a collaboration to develop an innovative Hub and Spoke Pain Management System of Care to serve the 250,000 plus veterans of VISN 23. This coordinated system of care will be comprised of core primary care oriented interdisciplinary pain management teams at each of the 8 VISN 23 Health Care Systems.

Minneapolis VA will serve as the both the VISN 23 tertiary pain management center, as well as the hub to coordinate the spoke site team development, patient referrals for specialized services and case management. Each of the spoke site teams will lead development of local primary care and interdisciplinary pain management. In addition to having its own spoke site team, Minneapolis will also provide specialized pain management services with advanced diagnostics and therapeutics provided by fellowship trained medical pain specialists, and a CARF certified behavioral pain rehabilitation program.

STAFF AWARDS AND NEWSMAKERS



Dr. Brown

Eric Brown Is 2013 Minnesota Psychiatrist of Year!

The honor by the Minnesota Psychiatric Society noted “Dr. Brown's clinical expertise and effectiveness, along with his dedication and impact as a teacher, his extraordinary leadership, and his commitment to psychiatry through years of service set him apart for this recognition.” Congratulations, Dr. Brown!

Minneapolis VA Excellence in Nursing Awards

- LOGO WINNER **Barbara Dachel**, RN, Chippewa Valley CBOC
- FUNNY STORY WINNER **Kirk Alford**, RN Rochester CBOC
- AMERICAN LEGION NURSING SCHOLARSHIP **Cynthia Anderson**, RN Out Patient Surgery; **Natasha Hollowell**, LPN Primary Care; **Maria Sturgell**, LPN, Clinical Applications Coordinator
- SAVVY LIBRARY USER AWARD **Lori Allert**, RN, NW Metro CBOC
- PRECEPTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD **Larry Smith**, RN, Surgical ICU
- EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE AWARD **Danielle Miller**, RN Ward 1E
- VA SECRETARY'S HAND & HEART AWARD **Sara Otterness**, APRN, Nurse Manager Renal and Dialysis
- CIVIL SERVANT AWARD **Nancy Feroe**, MSA, Primary Care Clinic; **Susan Hickel**, RN, Nephrology; **Karen Rafter**, RN, Tele ICU
- TEAM AWARD Surgical Intensive Care Unit
- MEDICAL SUPPORT TECHNICIAN AWARD **Jeffrey Durden**, Chemotherapy Treatment Center
- NURSING ASSISTANT/HEALTH TECHNICIAN AWARD **Nicolis Baumgard**, NA, Ward 2L
- LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE AWARD **Pamela Reed**, LPN, Spinal Cord Injury /Disorder Clinic
- REGISTERED NURSE EXPANDED ROLE AWARD **Amy Dodge**, RN , Ward 3L Assistant Nurse Manager
- REGISTERED NURSE IN STAFF NURSE ROLE AWARD **Jonathan Gair**, RN, GI Procedures

Alicia Beranek, RN, of the Chippewa Falls CBOC, was recipient of

“Sunshine Award” from WEAU-TV, in Eau Claire, WI on May 6. It included a surprise visit from the TV station with muffins and coffee for staff. Her story appeared on the local TV station. She was nominated by a patient who wrote, “She is always happy to see you. Her caring, compassion, and understanding deserve more than a thank you. She is a great asset to the clinic and the VA.”



Alicia Beranek

Life-Saving Act by VA Nurse

One of the GI employees was choking on a piece of chicken during lunch when **Brian Jolin**, LPN, recognized her distress and asked, “Are you choking?” She nodded and Brian did the Heimlich maneuver. It took about six thrusts to remove the chicken, which permitted the woman to breathe again. Thanks, Brian, for your heroic act. It's a good reminder for all VA staff to be trained for emergencies!

NEWS FROM VA CENTRAL OFFICE

Minnesota Receives 40 More Vouchers to Help Homeless Veterans

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki has announced the award of \$256,000 to two public housing agencies in Minnesota to supply permanent housing and case management for 40 of the state's homeless Veterans. Public Housing Agency of the City of St Paul will receive 15 vouchers and the Dakota County Community Development Authority will receive 25. The vouchers will be administered by the Minneapolis VA Health Care System. Minnesota currently has 400 vouchers for veterans living in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Rochester and Mankato. Since 2008, a total of 48,385 vouchers have been awarded nationwide and 42,557 formerly homeless veterans are currently in homes because of HUD-VASH. Eligible homeless Veterans receive VA-provided case management services to support stability and recovery from physical and mental health conditions. Veterans participating in the HUD-VASH program rent privately owned housing and generally contribute no more than 30 percent of their income toward rent. More information about VA's homeless programs is available at www.va.gov/homeless.

Report Redefines How Care and Services Are Provided to Gulf War Veterans

VA is seeking public comments on the draft Gulf War Task Force report before final publication. The public notice and instructions for how to submit electronic and comments via postal mail will be posted at www.regulations.gov, and the draft written report will be open for comment for 30 days.

VA Meets Goal of Hiring 1600 Mental Health Professionals

The VA has met its goal to hire 1,600 new mental health professionals outlined in President Obama's Aug. 31, 2012, Executive Order to Improve Access to Mental Health Services for Veterans, Service Members, and Military Families. As of May 31, 2013, VA has hired a total of 1,607 mental health clinical providers to meet the goal of 1,600 new mental health professionals outlined in the Executive Order. Additionally, VA has hired 2,005 mental health clinical providers to fill existing vacancies.



"VA News" Video Program Provides Timely Information

The weekly 15-minute newscast is co-produced by the VA Learning University and the VA Office of Public Affairs in partnership with the Employee Education System and other headquarters and field offices. You can watch on YouTube. For schedule and archives of previous stories, see http://www.va.gov/opa/feature/vanews/arch_vanews_13.asp

VA Mandates Overtime to Expedite Compensation Claims Decisions

As part of its ongoing effort to accelerate the elimination of the disability compensation claims backlog, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that it is mandating overtime for claims processors in its 56 regional benefits offices. This surge, which will be implemented through the end of fiscal year 2013, will be targeted to eliminating the backlogged status of claims.



STANDDOWN

AUGUST 6TH – 7TH, 2013

BOY SCOUT BASE CAMP

201 BLOOMINGTON ROAD, FORT SNELLING
CONVENIENTLY LOCATED OFF OF HIGHWAY 55 AND BLOOMINGTON ROAD IN FORT SNELLING, MN. 1/3 OF A MILE FROM THE FORT SNELLING LIGHT RAIL STATION.

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STATE DMV • HOUSING • AA/NA
EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE
MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING
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GATES OPEN

8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

REGISTRATION

8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. TUESDAY
8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY

WELCOMING CEREMONY

11:00 A.M. AUGUST 6TH

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Raise **PTSD**
Awareness
June 2013



Learn more about PTSD.
Challenge your beliefs.
Explore the options.

Reach out. Make a difference.

Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can occur after someone goes through a traumatic event like combat, assault, or disaster.



Please visit www.ptsd.va.gov



CALLING ALL VIETNAM VETERANS!



BE A PART OF THE:

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Parade

TUESDAY, AUGUST
27th
2013 at 10:25 a.m.

Participants must register online by July 31st, to be mailed 4 free State Fair entrance tickets. Participants will be required to be present for recognition from 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Register at: www.VietnamVeterans.eventbrite.com





"On the Beat" is published bi-monthly for patients, employees, volunteers and friends of the Minneapolis VA Health Care System.

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AMERICAN LEGION VAN DONATION



Earl C. Hill American Legion Post #550 Bloomington donated a 2013 Dodge minivan with wheelchair modifications. This vehicle, worth nearly \$50,000, will be used by Minneapolis VA Recreation and Creative Arts Therapists to provide our Veteran patients with community reintegration programming. Dr. Kent Crossley (R, dark suit), Acting Medical Center Director, accepts keys for the vehicle from Legion Post Commander Terry Selle.

HOME DEPOT HELPS FISHER HOUSE



Thanks to a \$140,000 donation by Home Depot and the Fisher House Foundation, Fisher House #1 is undergoing a renovation to the kitchen and 9 bathrooms with one of the first floor bathrooms getting a walk-in bathtub. New floors, cabinets, counters, lights, and fixtures are also being installed. The two Fisher Houses at the Minneapolis VA serves as a "home away from home" for families of Veterans receiving care.